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HB 2168, HD 1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Economic Development
Public Hearing - March 18, 1986

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HB 2168, HD 1 proposes certain amendments to the environmental impact statement (EIS) law, HRS 343. This statement on this bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The amendments proposed includes certain satisfactory non-substantive revisions of the provisions of HRS 343-6 relating to EIS system rules. More substantive are three amendments relating to environmental assessments — documents for which provision is now made in the rules but for which there is now no specific statutory authority.

The first of these amendments would add, to the definitions now given in HRS 343-2, a definition of a "Negative Declaration", — a declaration based on the environmental assessment of a project, that no EIS will be required for the project. This amendment is desirable.

The second of the amendments would add, to the other provisions for EIS-system rules in HRS 343-6, a specific provision for the prescription of the contents of environmental assessments. In our opinion this provision also is desirable.

The third proposed amendment would require that amendments to the rules should be subject to public hearings in each county. This amendment seems appropriate.